

HOUSE RESOLUTION 96

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION honoring the Harlem Globetrotters and the ten former Tennessee State Warrior basketball players who played with the team.

WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure and a privilege to offer an accolade of tribute to those intrepid individuals who, in pursuit of their dreams, broadened the racial perspective for so many others; and

WHEREAS, the members of the early Harlem Globetrotters teams were just such individuals; denied access to the professional basketball leagues in the sport's earlier days, these brave souls were unwavering in their belief that basketball should be available to all; and

WHEREAS, as a Globetrotter, a player could find an acceptance that could not be found elsewhere during the first years of the National Basketball Association; these young men played for the love of the game, travelling from city to city playing exhibition games against all comers; and

WHEREAS, between 1945 and 1960, the Harlem Globetrotters counted among its ranks ten former Tennessee State Warrior basketball players, each of whom brought their own particular skills and excellent gamesmanship to the court; and

WHEREAS, these ten players were: Clarence Wilson, Joe Buckhalter, Henry Kean, Josh Grider, Mel Davis, Boid Buie, Bobby Hunter, Tommy Gibson, Willis Thomas, and Ernest Jones; and

WHEREAS, these basketball legends, along with so many unnamed others, had a deep impact upon the world of professional basketball, and are wholly deserving of the recognition of this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby recognize the Harlem Globetrotters and the team's ten Tennessee State Warriors, Clarence Wilson, Joe Buckhalter, Henry Kean, Josh Grider, Mel Davis, Boid Buie, Bobby Hunter, Tommy Gibson, Willis Thomas, and Ernest Jones, for their contributions to the sport of basketball and to the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.